

Sustainability Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 9, 2013

Present: Lynn Stoddard (chair), Kristin Schwab, Paul Shapiro, Bill Lennon, Rich Miller, Don Hoyle (guest), Virginia Walton (staff), Jennifer Kaufman (staff), Linda Painter (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 by chair Stoddard.

The December 19, 2012 meeting minutes were accepted as amended on a motion by Shapiro/Schwab. Miller abstained.

Walton reported that the UConn group that planned a week last year focused on Climate Impact, Mitigation and Adaptation, is planning a teach-in the week of April 15, 2013 focused on "Our Environment: A Dialogue on Change." The committee discussed having another program for the region, like last year, devoted to specific changes that will affect interior southern New England. It was suggested having a panel representing communities that are implementing climate adaptation strategies. Painter will speak to the Mansfield Tomorrow consultants about how this program might interface with Mansfield Tomorrow. Stoddard will tap into her network of contacts to help construct a panel, and Schwab offered to have students look into examples of communities that are implementing adaptation strategies.

Kaufman reported that on January 30, 2013 the Mansfield Tomorrow advisory group will meet for the first time at 5:30 to be followed by the Community Kick-Off Meeting from 7 to 9 pm. Feb 2, 2013 from 8:30 to 2 pm will be a Forum on Growing Farms in Mansfield, co-hosted by the Mansfield Agricultural Committee. The forum is intended to serve as the first step in the development of an agricultural strategy for the Town. A virtual town hall, called Mind Mixer, which facilitates on-line discussions, will be used by the consultants to gather diverse perspectives and individuals who may not otherwise be involved in policy making. Leslie Oberholtzer from Farr Associates, who is part of the consulting team, would like to meet the sustainability committee, but is not available during the next meeting date on Feb 13, 2013. Rather than change the meeting date, Kaufman will find out if Leslie can join the February meeting via conference call. In the meantime, Kaufman will pass along Leslie's publication, "Essential Smart Growth Fixes for Urban and Suburban Zoning Codes," for the committee to review.

Walton stated that Mansfield has been selected as a Solarize Connecticut pilot community. The Town of Mansfield and Windham will be working together as one community for this pilot. The pilot begins in mid-February with the selection of a solar installer that will work with Mansfield/Windham. Solar ambassador training and the Solarize Connecticut kick-off meeting will be scheduled for the end of February. Committee members will be asked to help publicize the pilot as it gets underway. The grant includes assistance in streamlining the permitting process. Walton will provide a

copy of the permitting survey to Painter, as it ties into the Mansfield Tomorrow process. The grant ends in July 2013.

Kaufman reported that the Open Space Committee and Agriculture Committee will start evaluating open space and agricultural parcels that the Town owns for permanent preservation. They will begin with two properties to develop an evaluation process. Once they have prioritized Town-owned properties, they may seek support from the Sustainability Committee. Kaufman also reported that she is looking into using permeable paving for the universal access trail by Bicentennial Pond.

Miller reported that:

- (1) The Laurel classroom building received a LEED gold rating.
- (2) Painter and Lennon participated on the siting review for the UConn hazardous waste storage facility, known as the Main Accumulation Area. The selected site will be announced soon.
- (3) The comment period for the water study environmental impact evaluation has been extended until the end of January. Members decided not to submit comments from the committee at this point.

According to Walton, the availability of the car sharing program and electric car charging stations should be announced in another week. Stoddard will check with Governor Malloy's office about his availability for a March car sharing/electric car press event. Walton also reported that there will not be another opportunity to apply for a microgrid grant as there is not a steady source of funds.

A report on bike friendly communities, Mansfield Tomorrow and Solarize Connecticut will be included in the February agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton